



Volume 33, Number 3
<http://naturecalgary.com>

Dec 21:
Annual General Meeting.
Refreshments will be served.
Please plan to attend!



Lichenomphallia umbellifera
(Lichen Agaric/Mushroom Lichen)
© Anne K. Elliott

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers!
Contact Jim 403-850-3003 to volunteer or for more details

Volunteers' opportunities
<http://naturecalgary.com>

Nature News

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

December 2011 – January 2012

President: Jim Donohue ph: 403-850-3003 email: president@cfns.fanweb.ca

Nature Calgary General Meetings

Wednesday, Dec 21, 2011: Annual General Meeting: Our bylaws require a quorum of 30 members so please attend and help keep the society's business in good order. **Christmas Quiz** by John McFaul. **Members are invited to show a few photos** of their 2011 nature experiences: please contact John McFaul at 403-289-9517.

Several board positions are vacant, including that of President. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Jim Donohue at 403-850-3003 for details. Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers and we need the help of a few good people to keep the workload manageable.

Wednesday, January 18, 2012: Springtime in Central Asia, with Chris and Ken Havard describing a "birdwatching trip to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan through wind-swept deserts and grasslands buttressed by steep mountains. Migrating European birds added to the local specialties and the landscape was filled with fields of red poppies, tulips, and myriads of other flowering species. The cities of Samarkhand and Bukhara contain UNESCO heritage sites protecting colourful mosques and madrassahs with blue domes."

*All general meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except June, July & August) at 7:30pm, in **The Burnswest Theatre, Fort Calgary**, and are open to the public. To suggest a speaker or topic please call John McFaul 403-289-9517 or email naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca*

Issues, Events and Updates

Nature Calgary Annual Banquet: A fine banquet was enjoyed by over 80 members on Nov 5, thanks to Penny Smith and her helpers Dorothy Johnston, Bernie Diebolt, Marilyn Parker, Shirley Fraser, Janet Gill, John McFaul, and guest speaker Andrew Brash. **Special thanks to our generous door prize donors:** Laura Taylor, Lone Pine Publishing, and Don Stiles.

Please help reduce volunteer work by not having a newsletter mailed to you. If you have Internet access and email, please opt to receive an email when each newsletter is published, containing a link to the latest edition. You can then enjoy a colour version. Contact John Laurence (284-4245 or laurencj*[*telus.net](mailto:laurencj*@telus.net)) to change your preference.

...however, this month only, everyone has been mailed a newsletter in order to notify the membership of a **Special Meeting in January. See page 3.**

Volunteers wanted – can you help?

Board vacancies 2012:

President: organize 6-9 Board meetings; handle public enquiries; chair advocacy committee.

Publicity Director: coordinate our booth at events to promote Nature Calgary.

Botany Study Group chair: organize botany-related events and field trips.

Field trip leaders - lead a group to a favourite nature area

Welcome table volunteers - assist with questions and membership matters at general meetings, help set up table and banner. **** URGENTLY NEEDED ****

Nature Calgary Bird Study Groups

Wed Dec 7: Birding in Brazil, presented by Rob Worona.

Wed, Jan 4: Review of the 2011 Christmas Bird Counts.

Bird Study Group meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm, Room 211, BioSciences Building, U of C, except June through August when field trips replace the meetings.

Contact, Andrew Hart 403-279-5209 or [*shaw.ca](mailto:andrewhart*<a href=).

All Nature Calgary
field trips are free and
open to all.

Lead a field trip!

Share your
knowledge of a
favourite location!
call Gus 243-2248
or Andrew 279-5209

Field trip leaders please
turn in signed **waiver
forms** to Nature Calgary,
Box 981 Stn. M, Calgary,
AB, T2P 2K4,
or at the General and
Bird Study meeting
welcome tables.

Latest version of the
waiver form is available
<http://tinyurl.com/NCform>.

**All phone numbers are
area code 403 unless
otherwise stated.**

*** Inglewood Bird
Sanctuary** is located at
the E end of 9 Ave SE.

**Nature Calgary &
Inglewood 24hr Rare
Bird Alert
403-221-4519**
Updated Mon & Thu

**Birders should check
Albertabird
for latest sightings.**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird>



Nature Calgary Field Trips

- **New trips, updates, guidelines** - see http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html
- **Many meeting places are mapped on** <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/location.html>
- **Note:** Highlighted trips require pre-registration.

Sun Nov 20, 9am: Bird Votier's Flats, FCPP. Meet at S. end of Elbow Dr SW. Leaders, Bernie Diebolt, 210-2446; Janet Gill, 230-5671.

Sat. Nov 26, 9am: Bird Votier's Flats, FCPP, at S end of Elbow Dr. Leader, Jim St. Laurent, 246-6314.

Sat Nov 26, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary*, Leader, Penny Smith, 283-9260.

Sun Nov 27, 9am: Bird Votier's Flats, FCPP, S end of Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Howard Heffler, 284-2961.

Thurs Dec 1, 8:30am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call leaders Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sat Dec 3, 9am: Bird Carburn Park. E on Glenmore Tr to 18 St E, then S to 2nd stoplight, go right and follow signs to 2nd turn left. Leader, Howard Heffler, 284-2961.

Sun Dec 4, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park. Meet S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE). N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Leader, Kingsley Blades, 291-4278.

Sat Dec 10, 9am: Bird Griffith Woods Park. Go 2.5km W from Sarcee Tr SW on Hwy 8, then left at 69 St SW into Discovery Ridge, past the traffic circle. At the bottom of the hill, turn left on Discovery Link into parking lot. Leader, Grant Brydle, 720-4957.

Sat Dec 10, 10am: Nature walk in Carburn Park. S from Glenmore Tr E onto 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, then right and follow signs. Leader, John McFaul, 289-9517.

Sun Dec 11, 9am: Birding Griffith Woods Park. Go 2.5km W from Sarcee Tr SW on Hwy 8, then left at 69 ST SW into Discovery Ridge, past the traffic circle. At the bottom of the hill turn left on Discovery Link into the parking lot. Leaders: Bernie Diebolt, 210-2446; Janet Gill, 230-5671.

Sun Dec 11, 8:15am: Scout your Christmas Bird Count Territory. Contact your group leader for time and meeting place, or join G. Yaki, call 243-2248 to register.

Dec 14 through Jan 7 - Christmas Bird Count in Calgary and area, see below.

Sat Dec 24, 9am: Bird Bebo Grove to Sannon Terrace, FCPP. Meet Bebo Grove, S. end of 24 St SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 243-2248.

Sat Dec 31, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary*. Leader, Penny Smith, 283-9260.

Wed Jan 4, 8:30am: Monthly Elbow River Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call 403-243-2248 or email gyaki*@calcna.ab.ca to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sat Jan 7, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary*. Leader, Kingsley Blades, 291-4278.

Sun Jan 8, 1:30pm: Nature walk, mammal tracking, etc., in Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet parking lot, 37 St and 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 243-2248.

Sat Jan 14, 9am: Snowshoeing to Trolls Falls, Nakiska Ski Hill: after lunch at Kananaskis Village Centre, do a short loop there. Meet at the Shouldice Arena parking lot on Home Road S of 16 Av NW. Trip is dependent on reasonable weather and driving conditions, therefore advance registration required. Leader, John McFaul, 289-9517.

Sun Jan 15, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park. Meet S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE). N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Leader, Andrew Hart, 279-5209.

Sun Jan 15, 9:30am: Mid-winter birding roundup, Calgary and area, including Snowy Owls. Meet W end of Deerfoot Mall parking lot, Deerfoot Tr and 64 Av NE. Leader, Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sun Jan 22, 9am: Birding W of Calgary, likely Sibbald Tr, Exshaw, Harvie Heights, but subject to road conditions. Meet at Assumption School, 34th Av NW (NW corner of Sarcee Tr at Hwy 1). Bring lunch. Leader, Andrew Hart, 279-5209.

Sun Jan 22, 9am. Birding Carburn Park. S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to second stoplight, then right & follow signs to Carburn Park. Meet in parking lot. Leaders: Janet Gill, 230-5671; Bernie Diebolt, 210-2446.

FOR MORE NATURE
ACTIVITIES IN THE
CALGARY AREA VISIT:

Canadian Parks &
Wilderness Society
(CPAWS)

<http://cpawscalgary.org>

Weaselhead
Society

<http://talkaboutwildlife.ca>

Alberta Wilderness
Association

<http://albertawilderness.ca>

Calgary Area Outdoor
Council (CAOC)

<http://www.caoc.ab.ca>

Friends of Fish Creek

<http://friendsoffishcreek.org>

Cross Conservation
Area

<http://crossconservation.org>

Calgary Zoo

<http://www.calgaryzoo.org>

Winter meetings are held
monthly by the **Southern
Alberta Rare Plant Study
Group**

<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>

Wed Feb 1, 8:15am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call leader Gus Yaki, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

2011-2012 Christmas Bird Counts

City of Calgary, Sun Dec 18, 2011

Contact compiler Phil Cram, 228-4142 crampi*@telusplanet.net

1. Following the count (from 5pm on) all participants, including feeder watchers, are warmly invited by Lenora and Dick Flynn to 71 Mapleburn Dr SE, 271-1269, to compile results and have supper (\$4).
2. Please count mammals in addition to birds.
3. New participants wanting to join **feeder watch**, contact Jean Moore 282-4162.

Please register early!

Counts are all day (except for Fish Creek), but you may leave early. Everyone, regardless of skill level, is invited to participate. Compilers request that participants register as soon as possible to facilitate planning and to avoid anyone going out if a count is postponed due to inclement weather.

Surrounding Areas Christmas Bird Count Schedule (Remove * on emails)

Pincher Creek	Thu Dec 15	Sam Miller	1-403-627-3275	sammiller*@telus.net
(Sam will arrange free overnight accommodation for Calgary participants)				
Banff/Canmore	Sat Dec 17	Mike McIvor	1-403-762-4160	mdmcivor*@shaw.ca
High River	Tue Dec 20	Greg Wagner	403-601-3893	greg.wagner*@athene.ca
Horseshoe Canyon	Fri Dec 23	Mike Harrison	403-236-4700	tringa*@telus.net
Cochrane	Tue Dec 27	Frank Hennessey	403-932-4986	frankhennessey*@gmail.com
Cochrane Wildlife Reserve	Wed Dec 28	Jamey Podlubny	403-288-0658	svisser*@ucalgary.ca
Sheep River/Turner Valley	Fri Dec 30	Doug Collister	403-240-1635	collistr*@telus.net
Fish Creek Prov Park	Sun Jan 1 (AM only)	Jim Washbrook	403-613-9216	Jim.washbrook@prairiesky.ab.ca
Nanton	Mon Jan 2	Mike Truch	403-829-6986	mike_truch*@shaw.ca
Snake's Head/Sundre	Mon Jan 2	Doug Collister	403-240-1635	collistr*@telus.net
Dinosaur Pr Pk	Tue Jan 3	Yousif Attia	403-585-1125	Ysattia*@gmail.com
BowKan/Exshaw	Sat Jan 7	Cliff Hansen	1-403-673-2422	cehansen*@telusplanet.net

Notice of Special Meeting:

In accordance with by-laws 9.1, 13.1 and 15.1, notice is hereby given of a Special Meeting of the Society to be held at 7:30 pm, immediately prior to the **January 18, 2012** General Meeting of the Society, in order to consider the following **two proposals**:

Proposal 1: to change the requirements for member notification to include methods such as email or fax.

Reason: to reduce volunteer effort and cost in mailing notices.

Special Resolutions: (Requires 75% in favour to pass, quorum of 30 members)

#1a. Be it resolved that by-law 8.1 be changed to "Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be made in writing by mail, in person, or by electronically transmitted document to all members of the Society at least thirty days prior..." from "Notice in writing of the Annual General Meeting shall be mailed to all members of the Society at least 30 days prior..."

#1b. Be it resolved that by-law 9.1 be changed to "When a Special Meeting is called, the Secretary shall give notice in writing to each member, delivered by mail, in person, or by electronically transmitted document at least thirty days previous to the date of such Special Meeting." from "When a Special Meeting is called, the Secretary shall give notice in writing to each member, delivered in person, in the mail, or to the member's last known address at least thirty days previous to the date of such Special Meeting."

For more information please contact Jim Donohue or Andrew Hart.



Rough-Legged Hawk
©Phil Smith



www.naturealberta.ca

Alberta Natural History information, Conservation News & Issues, Magazine, Young Naturalists, and more.

Note:

Remove the *s that have been added to personal email addresses. This reduces spam.

Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr
Family \$25.00/yr
Contact John
403-284-4245 or
laurencj*[*telus.net](mailto:laurencj*@telus.net)

Proposal 2: to spend up to \$15000 on a major revision of the Nature Calgary website.

Reason: Our current website is out of date, hard to maintain, and hard to navigate. We hope that a modern website will be more attractive to both new and existing members, and require less technical expertise on the part of volunteers who maintain it. While our volunteers will determine the content and general style of a new website, the technical work will have to be done by professionals. Phase One, converting most of the existing content and functionality, will likely be completed by the end of 2012, and the ballpark cost for this work is \$10000 to \$15000. Two optional phases for future years (to add more features such as extensive birding location maps and online membership purchases) have been identified, with less cost associated.

Resolution: (Requires simple majority in favour to pass, quorum of 30 members.)

#2. Be it resolved that Nature Calgary authorizes the spending of up to \$15,000.00 for the first phase of the design and construction of a new website for Nature Calgary.

For more information please contact Jan Brigden or Linda Vaxvick (see below).

Of General Interest

"Where Have All the Children Gone? Nature deficit disorder and how to combat it". Talk presented by Gus Yaki at Alberta Wilderness Association, 355-12 St NW, Tue Nov 29, 7pm. \$5. Register at www.albertawilderness.ca or call 403-283-2025.

Friends of Nose Hill AGM, Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at Triwood Community Centre Pub, 2244 Chicoutimi Drive NW 7 p.m. speaker Sarah Nevill on Invasive Species. Free. All are welcome.

Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park events: Speaker series at Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, 7-9 pm. **FFCPP Winter Birding Courses** start Jan 9. See <http://friendsoffishcreek.org> or phone 403-238-3841 to register for all events.

Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park has expanded by 1000 hectares. See <http://www.tpr.alberta.ca/parks/consult/notifications/wosPP.aspx>

Alberta Envirothon (part of Calgary Science Network) is seeking mentors for high school students doing projects in spring of 2012. If interested please contact ed.kusmirski*@calgarysciencenetwork.ca.

"Getting to Know Saskatchewan Lichens" is a new booklet authored by Bernard de Vries intended to aid the beginner lichen enthusiast in identifying species of the Saskatchewan Prairies, Aspen Parkland and Boreal Forest. This booklet is now available through Nature Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment.

Leafsnap: An Electronic Field Guide: Leafsnap is the first in a series of electronic field guides being developed by researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution. This free mobile app uses visual recognition software to help identify tree species from photographs of their leaves. Website <http://leafsnap.com> also has excellent photos of tree features, useful for identification.

The City of Calgary has an online **questionnaire on the value and preservation of urban trees** at www.calgary.ca/trees. Fill in the survey by Nov 22.

Nature Calgary members receive discounts at businesses shown below
(with membership card)

Campers Village (10% discount)

7208 Macleod Tr SE 403-252-3338

The Wild Bird Store (10% discount)

D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society) publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to Linda lvaxvick*@telus.net and Jan jbrigden*@telus.net ph: 275-1582.

Deadline for the February-March 2012 issue is Friday Jan 13, 2012.